

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- [c1] 1. A cushion for protecting a vehicle occupant's head, the cushion having an upper portion fixed to the vehicle near a corner between a ceiling and a side surface of a vehicle cabin and wherein the cushion is adapted to inflate downwardly along the side surface by gas, the cushion comprising:
a cabin-side base fabric and a window-side base fabric sewn together along a peripheral seam to form a chamber for receiving gas, wherein the cabin and window-side fabrics are connected together at a joint located in the interior of the chamber, whereby a depressed region is formed on an exterior surface of the cabin-side fabric around the joint when the chamber is inflated by gas;
an outer shell fabric connected to the cabin-side fabric and covering the cabin-side base fabric at the depressed region.
- [c2] 2. The cushion of claim 1, wherein the outer shell fabric includes a section covering a depressed region on an exterior surface of the window-side fabric around the joint.
- [c3] 3. The cushion of claim 1, wherein the outer shell fabric is connected to the window-side fabric and cabin-side fabric along a plurality of connecting joints.
- [c4] 4. The cushion of claim 3, wherein the connecting joints connecting the outer shell fabric and the cabin-side fabric and the connecting joints connecting the outer shell fabric and the window-side fabric are not symmetrical about a line dividing a section of the outer shell fabric covering the cabin-side fabric and a section of the outer shell fabric covering the window-side fabric.
- [c5] 5. The cushion of claim 1, wherein the seam where the cabin-side base fabric and the window-side base fabric are sewn together is located along the periphery of the base fabrics.
- [c6] 6. The of claim 1, wherein the cabin-side base fabric and the window-side base fabric are bonded together by adhesive along the seam.
- [c7] 7. The cushion of claim 1, wherein the outer shell fabric comprises two separate pieces of fabric, one of the separate pieces of fabric covering the outer surface of the cabin-side base fabric and the other of the separate pieces of fabric

covering the outer surface of the window-side base fabric.

- [c8] 8. A side airbag for protecting a vehicle passenger comprising:
an inflatable cushion comprising a window side sheet and a passenger side sheet, wherein the sheets are sewn together along a peripheral seam to thereby create an inflatable chamber between the sheets;
wherein the sheets are further connected along an interior seam located within the chamber to thereby limit the outward expansion of the chamber during inflation; and
a layer of fabric attached to an exterior surface of the passenger side sheet, wherein the layer of fabric covers a depressed region formed adjacent the interior seam when the airbag inflates.
- [c9] 9. The side airbag of claim 8, wherein the shape of the fabric layer corresponds substantially to the shape of the passenger side sheet.
- [c10] 10. The side airbag of claim 8, wherein the layer of fabric is connected to the passenger side sheet at a peripheral portion of the fabric so that the fabric layer is tightly stretched over a depressed portion of the passenger side sheet formed around the interior seam when the chamber is inflated.
- [c11] 11. The side airbag of claim 8, wherein the layer of fabric is attached to the passenger-side sheet by adhesive.
- [c12] 12. A cushion for protecting the head of a vehicle passenger comprising:
a window side sheet and an passenger side sheet, wherein the sheets are sewn together along a peripheral seam located along a periphery of the window side sheet and the passenger side sheet; and wherein the sheets are further connected by interior seams that divide an inflatable chamber located between the sheets;
a layer of fabric attached to the exterior of the window side sheet and the passenger side sheet by adhesive, wherein the adhesive is located between the layer of fabric and the sheets at opposite ends of the fabric so that the layer of fabric stretches over the interior seams when the chamber is inflated; and
wherein the shape of the fabric layer corresponds substantially to the shape of

the sheets.

- [c13] 13. The cushion of claim 12, wherein the layer of fabric comprises a first layer of fabric connected to the window-side sheet and a second layer of fabric connected to the passenger side sheet.
- [c14] 14. A side airbag for protecting a vehicle passenger comprising:
an inflatable cushion comprising a window side sheet and a passenger side sheet, wherein the sheets are sewn together along a peripheral seam to thereby create an inflatable chamber between the sheets;
wherein the sheets are further connected along an interior seam located within the chamber to thereby limit the outward expansion of the chamber during inflation; and
a layer of fabric attached to an exterior surface of the window side sheet by adhesive, wherein the layer of fabric covers the interior seam and is attached to the window side sheet by adhesive.
- [c15] 15. The side airbag of claim 14, wherein the shape of the fabric layer corresponds substantially to the shape of the window side sheet.